

REGION 5
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Membership Roster

Seat	Yr Apptd Term Expires	Member Name & Address
1	2004 2007	James A. Charles Tuntutuliak
2		Vacant
3	2007	Raymond Oney Alakanuk
4	2004 2007	William F. Brown Eek
5	2005 2008	Harry Wilde, Sr. Chair Mt. Village
6	2005 2008	Edgar P. Hoelscher Hooper Bay
7	2005 2008	Mary Gregory Secretary Bethel
8	2005 2008	Philip Moses Toksook Bay
9	2005 2008	Lester Wilde, Sr. Hooper Bay
10	2003 2006	Joseph P. Mike Kotlik
11	2003 2006	Greg J. Roczicka Bethel
12	2003 2006	Bob Aloysius Kalskag
13	2003 2006	Beverly Hoffman Bethel

Unapproved Minutes from February 22–24, 2006

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
City of Emmonak Complex
Emmonak, Alaska

Call to Order—Meeting was called to order by Harry Wilde, Chair at 9:05 A.M.

Roll Call

Members present: Harry Wilde, Sr., Mt. Village; Mary Gregory, Bethel; Lester Wilde, Hooper Bay; Phillip Moses, Toksook Bay; Edgar P. Hoelscher, Hooper Bay; Bob Aloysius, Kalskag; William F. Brown, Eek; Joseph P. Mike, Kotlik

Members absent: Greg J. Roczicka, Bethel (excused); Beverly Hoffman, Bethel (excused); James A. Charles, Tuntutuliak (excused)

Note: Willard D. Church resigned prior to the meeting

Invocation: Invocation was given by elder Phillip Moses

Meeting participants: Alex Nick, OSM; Tom Kron, OSM; Karen Hyer, FIS; Steve Kessler, NPS, Andrew Kelly, Sr. RIT,USFWS; Pete DeMatteo, OSM (online); Don Rivard, OSM (online); Warren Easland, BIA ; John Hilsinger, ADF&G; Timothy Andrew, AVCP; David Waltmeyer, AVCP Partners Program(Yukon); Eva Patton, AVCP Partners Program (Kuskokwim); Hollis Twitchell, Yukon Delta NWR; Robert Sundown, Yukon Delta NWR; Salena Hile, Court Reporter; Sophie Evan, Interpreter; Joseph “Trim” Nick, Interpreter; Nicholas C. Tucker, Sr., Emmonak; Edward Andrew, Emmonak; Peter Andrew, Emmonak; John Lamont, Emmonak; Raymond Waska, Sr., Emmonak; Ted Hamilton, Emmonak; Wilbur Hootch, Emmonak; Paul Manumik, Sr., Nunam Iqua; Ben Tucker, Emmonak; Herman Hootch, Emmonak; Stella Unok, Kotlik; Mary Agnes Uisok, Emmonak; Mary Ann Miller, Kotlik; Jeff Reeves, Alakanuk; Gerald Maschmann, USFWS, Fairbanks; Billy Charles, Emmonak; Fortuna Manumik, Emmonak; Stan Jimmy, Emmonak; Robert Moore, Emmonak; Peter Moore, Emmonak; Martin B. Moore, Emmonak; Evan Rivers, John Kelly

Review and Adoption of Draft Agenda:

After discussions of the agenda, Council added “2006 Yukon-River–Initial Discussions on Salmon Returns” as Item 10 (D).

Bob Aloysius recommended that, for the next Council meeting, “Housekeeping items and announcements” should be placed on the agenda before “Review and Adoption of the Draft Agenda” because it seems it is appropriate to do so.

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Edgar Hoelscher to adopt agenda as revised. Motion carried.

Review and Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from October 13–14, 2005

After a brief discussion, the Council adopted the minutes (motion by Bob Aloysius, second by Lester Wilde).

Regional Advisory Council Concerns and Comments

- Council agenda should be made available to all of the village tribal councils, city governments, and ANCSA village corporations because they are complaining they are being left out on fish and wildlife issues and the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge issues. They expressed their concerns about Council members having to do some extra work disseminating information to the villages when they are asked to do so by people they represent. One emerging issue is that younger generations do not wish to volunteer their services because they don't want to leave their current jobs and lose out on their important income. They are aware that Councils do not get compensated for their voluntary services.
- Council member questioned why St. Mary's village representatives, who presented an incident during the fall meeting in October 2005, did not report back to the Council as planned during this meeting.
- Bethel is one of the hub communities within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council. Meetings should be held in Bethel because it is readily accessible by all of the villages within the Delta.
- Council represents the lower Yukon River people on the important issues and they bring those issues to the Federal Subsistence Board. Council should do everything possible to continue making a very strong stand and not be overridden by the Federal Subsistence Board. Don't let the Federal Subsistence Board or staff take advantage of you as a Council, by stating that they support a certain proposal (This comment was made by one of the meeting attendees who was recognized by a Council member to speak).
- In other organization meetings, cash advances are given to avoid problems with cashing member's per diem checks. The Council should be given cash instead of checks when a meeting is held in a village because it is difficult to cash checks in most of the villages.

Housekeeping and Announcements

Alex Nick informed the Council and audience that it has been a trying time to prepare for the RAC meetings as OSM staff made preparations for all of the 10 Council winter meetings. Most of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council members were contacted regarding their attendance plans several times before this meeting. There are some minor problems on the teleconferencing connections for this meeting. Alex informed the Council that breakfast and lunch have been arranged at the local school cafeteria, and that a receipt book is available if Council members need to get some receipts for their travel expenses. Council needs to be conservative on the available snack items, as supply needs to last for a three-day Council meeting.

Federal 2006–2007 Wildlife Proposals

WP06-01: *Restrict the commercial sales and purchase of handicrafts made from bear claws*

Summary of public comments:

- Support the status quo because this proposal continues to protect customary and traditional uses of bear anywhere

After listening to the analysis of the proposal and public comments on WP06-01, the Council deliberated and took the following action:

Lester Wilde proposed inserting the word "Federally-qualified" in the proposed regulations to read: ".25(j)8(a) Federal qualified users may not sell handicrafts made from the claws of

a black or brown bear to an entity operating as a business as defined in the Alaska Statutes 43.70.110(1), unless the bear was taken in Units 1-5.”

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Bob Aloysius to support proposal WP06-01 as written. Vote: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Justification: Council honors the beliefs and culture of the indigenous people from other parts of Alaska. Bear claws are used for handicraft and skin sewing and in this area as decorations for the skin sewn handicrafts. There is a desire to maintain traditional sales opportunity, while preventing commercialization of sales. There is a desire to be able to display handicrafts in village stores for sale by the person that produced the handicraft. However, some felt that there is no clear definition on what the proposed regulation would do.

WP06-02: *Allow the sale of handicrafts made from non-edible byproducts of most wildlife*

Summary of public comments Council heard before deliberation:

- What defines “subsistence qualification”?
- Support the proposal in order to make it possible that handicraft items made from nonedible byproducts of wildlife.
- Concerned about potential commercialization of handicrafts. Suggest monitoring sales to identify individuals who are Federally-qualified through a system such as tagging items to be sold when the new rule is implemented.
- How are Native-made handicrafts protected currently? Rules are now emerging to limit handicrafts to the point that a subsistence harvester, when s/he makes artifacts, is labeled as a poacher that destroys a person’s traditional ways.

After listening to the public comments, the Council deliberated and took the following action:

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, and Mary Gregory seconded to support WP06-02 without modification. Vote: 5 for, 0 against, and 3 abstaining

Justification: This would allow subsistence users to continue their traditional practices.

WP06-27: *Establish a control use area for moose in Unit 18*

Summary of public comments:

- Witnessed some people spotting a moose using aircrafts and VHF radios and this is not appreciated by local people. Locals would like to see some control on aircrafts in the area during moose season. As this type of activity is witnessed, locals feel that there is an unfair advantage on locals by privately-owned aircraft operators who spots a moose to harvest.
- Been approached by local people that they do not appreciate aircrafts being used for spotting a moose, assisting in the hunt, and hunting a moose later in the day or next day.

- Support Control Use Area if that's what the intent of this proposal is.
- Privately-owned aircrafts are being used to spot a moose in the area. Local people don't have any privately-owned aircrafts to do the same. Gasoline and food are expensive and for that reason, locals supports this proposal
- Heard many different aircraft pilots that announce they've spotted a moose and those pilots have entered the locations of moose spotted on their GPS coordinates to share. This is the reason why I support this proposal
- Very young hunters are currently being taught how they could harvest moose in the area. Because this is the mainstay of the local people.

After Council listened intensively to the public comments, the Council deliberated and took the following action:

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Edgar Hoelscher to support Proposal WP06-27 without modification
Vote: 8 voting for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Justification: There are local concerns about aerial moose spotting in lower Yukon River portion of Unit 18. Residents within the proposed area feel that spotting a moose from an aircraft creates an unfair advantage over other rural users who do not practice the same method for locating a moose during the moose season. Subsistence users in the area travel by land and water to hunt; and spotting a moose by use of an aircraft will not be fair for those traveling by land and water to harvest moose. We need to maintain the abundance of moose in this area by restricting aircraft access to hunt.

WP06-28/29: *Replace 10-day announced winter season with a 20-day season and allow the harvest of calves during the winter season in the lower Yukon area*

Summary of public comments:

- Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee previously discussed the issue of calves in the area a number of times, and local people's understanding is that a calf is considered to be a calf as long as it is with a cow moose. A calf which is less than 12 month old is not worth harvesting for subsistence. Calf is understood by local people to be any animal that is still with its mother.
- A person from the area was cited for harvesting a calf due to the definition of a calf in the State regulations.
- Support the proposal mainly for need for the resource because in the past, due to low levels of water in the sloughs, there were just a small area for moose hunting opportunity last year.
- Support taking of calves only in winter season, not in fall season.
- If possible, change the definition of calf because in the summer time, up to three calves are seen with a cow moose in the area.
- Predators such as wolves and brown and black bear are not devastating moose populations in the area because wolves and bears are rare. Calf population is currently healthy in the area.

- Because certain number of moose cow keeps its calves up to 1-2 years, it is noticeable that certain calves are less than a year old and these animals are pretty small. Local people complain that a calf meat is slimy when eaten, for this reason, it is recommended that a definition for calf be changed to clarify the current definition for a calf.
- Support proposals 28 & 29 except the definitions for a “calf”. There is a need to better define the word “moose calf because a number of moose hunters cannot distinguish what a calf is the way it is currently defined. There is a need to educate local moose hunters on this issue. A number of moose hunters do respect these animals and they are concerned about moose calves.
- Will harvesting moose calves have a long-range effect on moose population in the area?
- Would like to see a better definition on calf so any moose hunter will not get into trouble with the law enforcement personnel in the field.

After listening to the extensive public comments, the Council deliberated and concluded with the following action:

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Lester Wilde to support proposals WP06-28/29 with modification. “Calf” is defined as an ungulate still with its mother. Regulatory wording should add “with its mother” after the word “calf”. Vote: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining, 1 absent

Justification: Calf harvest is not customary and traditional in the proposed area. There are concerns about the definition of a calf. It is good to provide additional opportunity for the lower Yukon River subsistence hunters to feed their families.

WP06-30: *Remove the closure of Federal public lands for the fall moose season in portions of Unit 18*

Summary of public comments:

- Association of the Village Council Presidents (AVCP) supports the deferral of this proposal.
- Emmonak Tribal Council’s resolution is in opposition to the proposal as it was read into record by a tribal member.
- Lower Yukon River residents asked to have a moose moratorium in the past to allow moose populations grow. ADF&G did not ask the Lower Yukon residents that they should establish moose moratorium. There are approximately 800 plus current residents of Emmonak alone. Some of the young men from Emmonak were cited and have gone to jail just for trying to feed their families while harvesting moose.
- There currently exists a corporate land use agreement between the villages of Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Emmonak. This agreement allows local residents of these villages to harvest fish and game without restrictions by landowners.
- Recommend that this Council vote this proposal down for these reasons, everything the State and Federal agencies claim is not always correct, in terms of scientific information.

- Local people are being offended by anyone who says that they represents the residents of this area, and yet they have failed to meet with the local people on the issues before they've gone forward to take care of the issues and make decisions.
- 200 plus moose in the area looks good for the State and Federal agencies, but these numbers are not sufficient to feed all of the families affected in villages of Emmonak, Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, and Kotlik.
- It is inappropriate that other villages that have used the resources in certain areas that do not have C&T in that area.
- Government needs to work with the local people, as agency staff lacks sufficient knowledge about the local issues.
- Last year, during the whole month of September, moose hunting was devastated, due to weather conditions that hampered moose hunting in the area. As a result of that, some people did not harvest any moose at all.
- Moose hunting is very sensitive in this area.
- Same mistake using this proposal is happening and as an example, an agreement was made by the past U.S./Canada negotiation team on the Yukon River salmon issues that were negotiated at that time. Noticing the same mistake now when this proposal was submitted by the proponent.
- Commercial fishing closely ties with the subsistence hunting and fishing activities in the area.
- Some local people have apologized that, although they wish to attend the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting at this time, they understood that a sport hunting issue is going to be taken up during this meeting. Because sport hunting and fishing is contrary to subsistence, those people decided not to attend this meeting to avoid dealing with controversial issue.
- This proposal is likened to a "key" that will open up future sport activities in the area. It is also inappropriate to mention rural communities such as community of St. Michaels and or other communities that do not have a C&T to harvest fish and wildlife resources. Community relations are linked between some of these communities that were mentioned in the Federal regulatory booklets that there are no C&T for these communities. People in St. Michaels, Stebbins, Mt. Village. St. Mary's, and Pilot Station are closely related, and harvest resources in other areas then their local area.
- One user personally encountered enforcement personnel when he was only checking his blackfish trap. An enforcement officer demanded that he stop. When he stopped, the officer demanded to check on his cargo sled and found only blackfish.
- Previous census indicates that Emmonak had 187 households in the past, and currently Emmonak households total over 200. Subsistence hunting and fishing is needed in Emmonak because there are other sources that could be harvested to feed some families.

- Why is the proponent not present at this meeting to explain why he proposed to allow sport hunting in the area and to try to convince local people the reasons why he submitted this proposal?
- There is room for other hunters in the area, but the local population of moose is still growing in the area and is not quite at a comfortable level in terms of its population.

The Council listened to very extensive public comments from the local residents that traveled to Emmonak and attended the Council meeting. The Council carefully considered local public comments in its deliberations, then took the following action.

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Mary Gregory to support proposal WP06-30 without modification. Vote: 0 for, 8 against, 0 abstaining. Motion failed.

Justification: Council needs to listen to the elders. Many people from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in the lower Yukon area have expressed concerns about this proposal. People in the lower Yukon shares their harvests of animals with others. There is a concern that the needs of the lower Yukon villages are not being met. There are concerns about changing environment and the stability of the moose population in the proposed area. There are concerns about the people of the lower Yukon being able to get enough moose to feed their families into future generations.

WP06-34: *Extend the moose seasons in Units 21A, 21B, 21D, 21E, & 24*

Council listened to the analysis of the proposal. There were no public comments heard on the proposal. Council deliberated and took the following action.

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Lester Wilde to support WP06-34 without modification. Vote: 0 for, 7 against, 1 absent. Motion failed.

Justification: The Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group opposed this proposal at its meeting. The Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross Local Fish and Game Advisory Committee did not support this proposal at its meeting.

WP06-37: *Change the season dates for caribou in Units 22B and 22D*

After listening to the analysis of the proposal, Council asked for public comments and there were none. The Council deliberated on the proposal and the took the following action.

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Edgar Hoelscher to support WP06-37 without modification. Vote: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining. Motion passed.

Justification: Hunters from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta do not hunt within this area until after Oct. 1. There is broad support for this proposal.

WP06-42 to 52: *Customary and traditional use determinations for beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten, wolverine, spruce grouse, ptarmigan (rock and willow), ground squirrel, and porcupine.*

The Council listened to the analysis of the proposal. There were no public comments heard. The Council discussed and deliberated on the proposal, then took the following action.

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Bob Aloysius to defer proposals WP06-42 to 52 until further information on the use of resources from the lower Yukon River is obtained. Vote: 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining. Motion passed.

Justification: Hunters from this area do utilize these species in the Seward Peninsula area. There is a need to gather more information from the affected communities on this issue before Council makes a decision. The Council supports the Preliminary Staff Conclusion to defer these proposals.

Subsistence Fish and Wildlife Issues

Fisheries Information Services

Ms. Karen Hyer with the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Fisheries Information Services, presented annual project report for OSM Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program for the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River. Ms. Hyer handed out print outs of her presentation. (See page 149, line 40 of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting transcripts for Ms. Hyer's detailed report).

AVCP Fisheries Partner's Program

David Waltmeyer presented and explained the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Partner's Program for the lower Yukon River. The program provides funding for fisheries issues identified by the Regional Advisory Councils. (See detailed report in the meeting transcripts on page 161, line 36).

Ms. Eva Patton presented AVCP Partner's Program for the lower Kuskokwim. Ms. Patton explained that the program is a program within the communities in participating more fully in subsistence fisheries management. Ms. Patton calls the program a work in progress because their work is based on the desires of the community. (See meeting transcripts page 163, line 38 for detailed presentation).

Results of Federal Subsistence Board Actions

Alex Nick presented the Federal Subsistence Board actions on 2005 Federal fisheries regulatory change proposals during its January 2006 meeting. Alex Nick explained that some of the documents did not meet the deadlines for the YK meeting booklet production. Alex Nick read into record, the Federal Subsistence Board Actions from January 2006 FSB meeting.

Call for Fisheries Proposals

Alex Nick presented the fisheries proposal information using a sample form as a visual aid. Alex Nick explained the fisheries proposal process is from January 4, 2006 through March 24, 2006. The proposed fisheries regulatory changes would be for 2007-2008 regulatory year. Fisheries proposal forms are available at the meeting information table.

Annual Reports

- Alex Nick presented a draft 2005 annual report and explained that he attempted to work with some of the Council members like Mr. Greg Roczicka, Ms. Beverly Hoffman, and Mr. Lester Wilde while he worked on the draft 2005 annual report. After a discussion of the annual report issues, the Council decided to review the document after meeting recess for the day and revise the document when it comes back in session the next day.

When the annual report was brought back on the table, the Council discussed their concerns about the issues, and made some suggested changes to the draft document.

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Joseph Mike to adopt 2005 Draft Annual Report with the revisions. Motion carried.

Agency Reports

Review of Rural Determinations Briefing

Tom Kron with the OSM presented rural determination briefing and explained that Councils will be asked to make recommendations on rural determinations during its fall meeting. Kron inform the Council that this is just an update on what is currently being done, and that the Federal Subsistence Board met in December 2005 and generated the list. The Board asked for additional work on the list to be done.

Summary of Council comment

- Need clarification on what the Council is expected to do with this.

Kron explained that this briefing is just information for the Council.

Draft Closure Review Policy Briefing

Tom Kron presented the draft closure policy review and referred the Council to pages 114 and 115 of the Council book. Kron informed the Council that comments on the draft closure policy is requested from the Council.

Summary of Council comments

- Will comments be forwarded to Tom Kron or Alex Nick?
- It is frustrating because the document was received just last week and that the Council did not have sufficient opportunity to review the document.
- What is the timeline for the draft policy?

Summary of public questions/comments

- What type of criteria is being used to close for non-Federally-qualified users?
- What instruments are used for closures, such as special action requests, regulatory change proposals?

- As opposed to the regulations changes, does this require public comments or, will emailed comments suffice?
- Need to have a stronger language on the document to protect subsistence users in some areas.

Subsistence Use Amounts Protocol Briefing

Warren Eastland of BIA and John Hilsinger of ADF&G presented the subsistence use amounts briefing (See meeting transcripts on page 204 for details).

Summary of Council comments/questions

- Where did ADF&G obtain these numbers from? Are these figures being used for the customary and traditional use of the game population levels?
- This document says that in Unit 18, the amounts necessary for moose is 80-100 and that is asinine. All of the figures in the document appear to be outdated. How did ADF&G come up with these figures?
- In Unit 18, these figures are way off and because of this, it makes one wonder about the accuracy of these figures. Do our people have to live with these figures in the future?
- When conservation units get into subsistence, subsistence will always be subsistence. Now getting all fed up with the garbage placed on the Council table. All these years, subsistence is being used as an example for nothing. People can't even subsist at any time they wish on their own privately-owned lands. These documents being presented are fit only to be used as a fire-starter.
- These figures now being presented, are these figures being used to determine what is necessary to be determined for the future?
- How did the U.S. Fish and Wildlife or ADF&G come up with these figures in the first place?
- Councils need to make certain that the figures for amounts necessary for subsistence represent most accurate figures. If it becomes necessary, a door-to-door survey in each affected village needs to be conducted to come up with the most accurate figures.
- This information is based on the customary and traditional uses. Is this aligned with the Federal open season, or is it based on the state's customary and traditional use determination data?
- Aside from the door-to-door survey to be conducted, how is the additional information going to be gathered? For example, information on subsistence harvested moose? Department should not allow its staff to report on moose issues if the Department's staff reporting lacks information. Instead, the Department should send someone who is capable of answering Council's questions, so that the Council will make the right decisions
- Proposal WP06-30 was a very premature and dangerous tool. 80-100 moose gives a go-ahead for the Federal government to open up the Unit 18 for other uses on Federal public lands, and this is very, very dangerous. That is the reason why the numbers presented for ANS are unreliable.

- Stress that if the Office of Subsistence Management plans to take part in this issue, that OSM must obtain its own figures and not rely on figures provided by the ADF&G.
- Regional Advisory Councils should support what subsistence users want. Although the general public, from rural areas, have not provided any public comments, the audience at this meeting should be given opportunity to provide their own comments on this issue.
- If this issue was not presented, it would have slipped by the Councils without being noticed by them.

Summary of public comments/questions

- Surprised at the 80-100 moose as the amounts necessary for subsistence as presented; that amount is way off (too low) for Unit 18.
- If that is what's going to be the basis of the decision-making process, it would be irrelevant. Do the ANS/SUA findings limit future harvests? The answer may be no, but when other user groups offers some money, the next thing the subsistence users will find out about is that subsistence harvest for the resource is being closed. How much of a fight do agencies want?
- If Unit 18 is totally under the state management system, moose populations would already have dropped under 100 and Unit 18 would have a Tier II situation in place by now. If the amounts needed for subsistence is that artificially low, how then will the harvestable surplus in the thousands will be used in Unit 18? If Unit 18's entire amounts needed for subsistence is that low, why is the Lower Kuskokwim Moose Moratorium in place now? These are some of the pretty serious questions that come out of the current amounts needed for subsistence document. It is frightening to see moose population levels get as low as 80-100 moose elsewhere in the State. It would do considerable harm to continue and allow moose hunting until its population is low which would lead to initiating a Tier II hunt. If Unit 18 is under the state management system, then all user groups would qualify to hunt moose under the Tier II system and moose populations would be lower.
- In the 1980s, moose population level was very low in Unit 18. Assume that the ADF&G is using moose harvest data from the 1980s to determine amounts needed for subsistence. Not certain about this, but perhaps the ADF&G is proposing these low amounts needed for subsistence in order to arrive at higher harvestable surplus for other user's opportunity to participate in the hunt.

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Joseph Mike, that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council disagree with all of the numbers in the SUA document; that the protocol be deferred until all ten of the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils review and revises the ANS numbers for each Unit.

Discussion: Council directed OSM staff to draft a proposal to the State and Federal agencies to conduct necessary survey to arrive at the correct numbers for Amounts Needed for Subsistence in Unit 18.

Vote: Unanimous consensus.

Justification: The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council disagrees with numbers in the current Amounts Needed for Subsistence document that appears to be incorrect for this region. This document from the ADF&G in Unit 18, ANS for moose 80-100, is far below ANS for

moose because there are at least 2,000 households eligible for subsistence harvest of moose in Unit 18. These numbers are unreal for Unit 18, while in Unit 19D, where moose population is much less than Unit 18, 400-700 is needed for subsistence in that area. A letter to the Board of Game explaining the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's position for Unit 18 moose ANS for subsistence need to be drafted by staff for Council review.

NOTE: A large portion of Yup'ik discussions on ANS was not translated into English. Regional Council Coordinator and OSM staff did their best to incorporate Council concerns and comments into the minutes.

Marine Jurisdiction Briefing

Tom Kron presented briefing on marine jurisdiction and explained that marine jurisdiction was presented to the Councils the past couple of years a number of times. The final rule was published in December 2005. This presentation is informational and this is just an update.

Avian Influenza Update

Tom Kron presented Avian Influenza and referred to pages 146 and 147 in the Council meeting booklet. Kron informed the Council that this is informational and that bird sampling is being planned for this spring and summer.

Summary of public comments

- People in Nunam Iqua, especially younger people in the village, are currently refusing to participate in the upcoming migratory waterfowl hunt this Spring, because of the bird flu media coverage. It has been in the news several times displaying piles of birds being burned up somewhere. Recommend that this document be made available to the household families in the Delta through mail. There is a recommendation to cook birds at 155 degrees, and up to 165 degrees to kill the disease in the meat. This information should be disseminated to the families in the communities because they are concerned about the avian flu. What is currently being done by AVCP and ADF&G to keep public informed about this?
- At the 2005 Fall AVCP Convention, resolutions were adopted to go forward to the Alaska Federation of Natives so that the Native community across the State get involved in research projects and to disseminate this information to the villages.
- There is substantial concern about this issue because most of the Yup'ik elders like to eat medium rare waterfowl birds and, in the coastal villages, people harvest the shorebirds for subsistence use.
- Refuge Information Technicians (RITs) received an extensive training and they will be disseminating this information to the villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.
- In the Tuluksak area, people also harvests swan
- Is the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) involved in public education on avian flu?

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Update

Hollis Twitchell and Robert Sundown gave an update on the Refuge programs and activities. Sundown and Twitchell updated the Council on the three main topics.

1. Mulchatna Herd Caribou population has faced a drastic decrease in its population numbers. Currently there are no studies going on to find out why there is a decrease in caribou population numbers.
2. The Lower Kuskokwim Moose Moratorium preliminary studies indicated that there is a drastic increase in moose population numbers in Kwethluk River, and between Three Step Mountain and Elbow Mountain south of the Kuskokwim River.
3. Avian Flu: The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge is currently participating in a large sampling from the waterfowl bird droppings to determine whether or not the waterfowl birds are affected by avian flu.

Togiak Refuge Update

Alex Nick informed the Council that as before, the Togiak Refuge staff provided an update for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council winter meeting. The Togiak Refuge provided an Information Bulletin, which can be found on page 148 of Council book.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

John Hilsinger of ADF&G reported on the salmon escapement goals along with the public involvement to review the escapement goals for the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim. Organizations involved in the process are: AVCP, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Kawerak, Bering Sea Fisherman's Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Preliminary recommendations will be available by March 10, 2006. This is being done in preparation for the January 2007 Board of Fisheries meeting. The review process will continue until the start of the Board meeting in 2007.

Association of Village Council Presidents

Timothy Andrew, Director of AVCP Natural Resources reported that Avian Flu was one of the topics he plans to report on, but this was covered the previous day. Mr. Andrew said AVCP is continuously involved on Unit 19A moose issues, because the lower Kuskokwim moose hunters participate in the hunt. The Board of Game made regulatory changes just recently which will affect moose hunters from the lower Kuskokwim area. Under the new State hunting regulations in Unit 19A, moose hunters could be penalized in the future if they don't return their harvest tickets. The issue is not only within 19A Unit, issue also applies to Unit 21E where Bob Aloysius is involved in the moose management planning meetings. AVCP submitted a proposal to allow a winter season in Unit 21E to open concurrently with Unit 18 from December 10 – January 10. AVCP continues to advocate for the subsistence hunters in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta regardless whether or not some of the villages do participate on the AVCP Compact Program. AVCP is involved in the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council at which Myron Naneng is a member of. The Waterfowl Conservation Committee (WCC) receives grants to conduct at least two meetings per year and they deal with the migratory bird issues. At the recent WCC meeting, avian flu was one of the major topics of their discussion. There are other issues such as Black Brant that is experiencing some decline in its population numbers. The Emperor Goose is not rebounding in its population numbers. Cackling Canada Geese is currently stable in their numbers. There are still some problems with the Spectacled Eiders. The WCC also is funded to travel to Washington D.C. and address some of the migratory waterfowl hunting issues that involve the State waterfowl hunting requirements.

Tribal Representatives

Some tribal governments were represented and provided their comments.

ANCSA Village Corporations

Harry Wilde spoke as an ANCSA Corporation representative for his village of Mt. Village and stated that the ANCSA Village Corporations are beginning to get concerned about their land holdings and management of the resources. Their main concern is that the ANCSA village lands are being managed by the state and co-managed by the Federal agencies. Mr. Wilde believes that someday, the ANCSA corporations will get their acts together and do something about the land management issues relating to resources. Wilde mentioned that there seems to be some pre-planning going on between landowners, as to what the land-owners in lower Yukon River should do in the future.

Regional Council Business

Review of the Council Charter

Alex Nick explained that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council made some suggestions to make changes in its Council charter. The new Council charter is now in place and is in the Council meeting booklet, page 153. This new charter comes from the Secretary of Interior and the Council needs to comply with it.

Tom Kron also explained some of the changes in the charter. One of the changes, the ethics disclosures, is only going to be used if a Council member has significant financial interest on any agenda item. The solicitors reviewed this and stated that it is unnecessary for most of the Council members. If a given Council member feels that he/she have a conflict of interest with any proposal or an issue, he/she should make that known to the Council. This document is just to update the Council for their information. The Council asked about the procedures for resignation from Council membership which is not in the new Charter. The Council is concerned that there should be a section addressing Council resignations. Tom Kron explained that it is up to a Council member wishing to resign, to do so as others have done across the State in the past.

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Joseph Mike that a section be included to the Council Charters on voluntary Council resignations including personal or other reasons for their resignations.

Discussion: Council asked its staff to draft a language for the recommended addition to the Council Charters. Motion carried.

Meeting dates and locations

Motion: Lester Wilde moved, seconded by Bob Aloysius to hold the next Council meeting on October 5-6, 2006 in Bethel, Alaska. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Joseph Mike, to hold 2007 winter meeting on March 15-16, 2007 in Hooper Bay, Alaska. Motion passed by voice vote.

Justification: The Yukon-Kuskowkim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council has met in the month of February and they've experienced some bad weather during travel. Meeting in the month of March would avoid some of this bad weather.

Election of Officers:

At the call of the Chair, and with Council's concurrence, the election of Council officers was moved to fall 2006 meeting.

Closing Comments

- Thanking local people in Emmonak for welcoming Council and its guests to this community, and for treating everyone good while the guests remain in the community. One of the topics learned was the Avian Flu issue. This is very important and this Avian Flu information should be disseminated in the village bingo activities because that is one of the best ways public relations is done in a village like in village of Kotlik.
- Concerned about staying on the subject with an approved agenda during the Council meetings. It is not appropriate to keep suspending the rules to allow someone else to speak and to bump out other agencies on certain topics.
- Do mention the traditional knowledge of the resources especially in relation to fishery. Indigenous people consume their harvests no matter how long the resources were kept in storage or were processed. Some of the resources are usually freshly-caught like fish, some of which would be cured, cooked, and these are usually consumed with respect to the resources, especially the fishery resources. Do encourage that people do not play with fish. Our region has a separate fishery harvest areas that differs from sub-region to sub-region. For example, in the coastal areas, fishery harvest areas are different than that of the lower Yukon River or Kuskokwim sub-regions. Do observe and listen to a lot of concerns on fisheries issues. Although the English language is not understood except through the interpreters in summary, it is different in this day and age as opposed to the past. Yup'ik people did not hold any meetings regarding subsistence resources. Verbal advice of the Yup'ik elders, on the use of the resources was a way to instruct local users how subsistence resources, should be conserved from the area to another area.
- Thanking people of Emmonak for attending this meeting and for bringing up issues the Council is not aware of and for being part of decision-making process for resources that are important to their livelihood. Personal complaint is that, anytime an individual, organization, or an agency wishes to make a presentation, they should place the topic on the agenda and provide a written material in advance for the Council to review before the start of the Council meeting. If a presenter chooses to request a presentation at the last minute, that presenter should provide their materials or documents to the Council. The main thing is to send their materials in advance so the document could be included in the Council meeting booklet for Council review before the Council meeting occurs.
- It is heartwarming to see local people attending the meeting and participate on Council discussions and deliberations on the regulatory changes. The Council would appreciate it if the staff would write the rules and conduct to follow during Council meetings. During Council meetings, staff should remind the Council to follow the current rules that apply to Council meeting. As it was suggested by Ray Waska earlier, each topic should include an explanation of what it is when it is introduced, so the audience could understand and follow the issue. The Council should ask its staff to draft a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board and address issues such as Amounts Needed for Subsistence on moose in Unit 18. The ANS document asks for 80-100 moose for over 2000 households in Unit 18. When the Council returns home with a concern

on Avian Flu, they should make certain that, when the migratory birds are being prepared for a dinner, the birds are fully cooked before they are eaten.

- Is it possible to use a Power Point projector during Council meetings to project the issues being discussed?

Adjournment

Motion: Bob Aloysius moved, seconded by Lester Wilde to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Consensus

Meeting was adjourned on February 24, 2006 at 12:05 p.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Alex Nick, DFO
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

Harry Wilde, Chair
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.